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HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Historically Black Colleges Historic Building Restoration and Preservation Act. From Civil War battles to civil rights marches, the campuses of historically black colleges and universities [HBCU's] have been the site of many significant events in America's history. Scattered throughout the Nation, many of these institutions of higher learning have fostered the academic development of African-Americans for over a century.

The rising price of historic preservation compounded by years of low funding and neglect have left many historic buildings on the campuses of HBCU's in poor condition. The \$29 million in grants this bill authorizes is desperately needed for the rehabilitation of these structures. By providing matching funds, HBCU's will be able to restore these prominent landmarks for the enjoyment of local communities and the benefit of future students.

Of the \$29 million in grants authorized to this bill, there are also several colleges that are earmarked to receive funds because of their important contributions to the education of African-Americans in their areas. This bill authorizes \$3 million for historic preservation at Tougaloo College and \$1 million for Rust College, both located in Mississippi. At Tougaloo these funds will be used to repair prominent buildings such as the Mansion, a 13-room home built in 1848. Rust College will use these funds to ensure the survival of many structures, including Oakview Hall which served as an office for the Holly Springs Slave market and as quarters of General Grant's troops during the Civil War.

Most Americans agree that education provides the best chance of preparing today's youth to lead the Nation in the next century. Although Thomas Jefferson's dream of educational opportunity for every American has not yet been reached, legislation like H.R. 1179 takes positive steps toward its fulfillment. The supporters of this bill should be commended for their commitment to providing the colleges and universities that serve African-Americans with the resources needed to provide an educational atmosphere that protects the past as a means of inspiring the future.

RECLAMATION RECYCLING AND WATER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address provisions in H.R. 3660, the Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act.

I commend the gentleman from Utah, Mr. HANSEN, and the Resources Committee for their efforts. H.R. 3660, which is directed solely to the Department of the Interior, moves this country in the right direction environmentally—i.e., to recycle, reuse, and conserve our precious water resources.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance for various projects relating to water and wastewater reclamation and reuse and desalinization. Nothing in this bill affects the authorities of the Army Corps of Engineers or the Environmental Protection Agency relating to water reclamation and management, wastewater treatment and desalinization or authorities and requirements under water resource laws that apply to the Corps of Engineers or authorities and requirements under the Clean Water Act.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over various Corps of Engineers' and EPA' authorities, which may include water and wastewater treatment and reclamation, as well as desalinization.

I congratulate the Resources Committee for its efforts to reclaim, recycle and conserve water resources throughout the Western States and look forward to working with them on water and wastewater reclamation and desalinization projects and programs in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGE KELTNER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a great citizen who has made a tremendous impact on educating children in the School City of Hammond, IN. Mrs. Marge Keltner, title I director for the School City of Hammond, retired at the end of the 1996 school year.

Mrs. Keltner began her career in education in 1955 as a fourth grade classroom teacher. She came to the School City of Hammond in 1959 in the same capacity. In 1965, Mrs. Keltner's teaching assignment changed when she became the title I reading teacher. Title I is a federally funded educational program that assists students who have reading problems. Mrs. Keltner's role with title I expanded through the years as she became a title I reading teacher coordinator, instructional supervisor, and, finally, program director. Mrs. Keltner also taught undergraduate and graduate level education at Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Calumet.

In addition to her work with the title I program, Mrs. Keltner worked diligently to foster

literacy. She is currently a charter member of the Hammond Area Reading Council and has served on the board of directors for the Calumet Area Literary Council. In addition, Mrs. Keltner served two terms as president of the Indiana State Reading Council and was appointed by Governor Bayh to a statewide Literacy Coalition.

Marge Keltner can be very proud of the work she has done to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. She serves as a positive role model for teachers and students alike, and proves that with a little assistance from a caring teacher, a child can grow into and prosper as a productive adult.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM: FORMER SENATOR BOB DOLE SAID HE DID NOT READ IT—BUT IT SHOULD BE READ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago the American people were treated to a confusing spectacle in San Diego. The platform adopted by the Republican Party 1 week before the Republican convention reflected the same extremist, Contract-With-America rhetoric that we in the Congress have witnessed for the past 20 months. This is the same extremist program that the majority of the American people have clearly and unequivocally rejected.

The following week, a tightly-scripted convention took place in San Diego which ignored the existence of this radical document. That same convention—for obvious reasons—also ignored the so-called Contract With America.

The Republican Presidential candidate, former Senator Robert Dole, told the press he had not read his party's platform. The Republican platform, however, does deserve to be read, Mr. Speaker, because it is important for the American people to know the views of those who are in the majority within the Republican Party. The Republican platform tells us the views of the people who will play leading roles if there should be a Dole administration—which, I hasten to add, I sincerely hope there will not be.

Mr. Speaker, an excellent analysis and summary of the Republican platform appeared as an editorial in the September 2 issue of *The New Republic*. I ask that this excellent editorial be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read it. This editorial gives an excellent summary of some of the most egregious and disturbing problems with that extremist document.

[From the *New Republic*, Sept. 2, 1996]

PLATFORM DIVING

Is the Republican platform worth reading? Not to Bob Dole, who still hasn't found the time, nor to the GOP's oh-so-moderate convention speakers, who appear chosen largely because they disagree with its plank on abortion (criminalize it, even when the mother's life is at stake). But although the platform is, predictably, a farrago of inoffensive pabulum ("We are the party of the American family, educating children, caring for the sick . . .") and unintended hilarity ("Prisons should not be places of rest and relaxation"), it still provides a useful glimpse into the contradictions of what remains the closest thing America has to a majority party.